TL 6796
454-2

Jorge Gusmão - A first-person account.

Name: Jorge Avelino Gusmão
Parents: Manuel Avelino de Sousa and Celina de Fátima Gusmão
Date of birth: 24 April 1975
Place of birth: Dili
Residence: Dili
Civil Status: single
Occupation: student

After the events of 15 October at my school (SMPK Paulus) I spent one and a half months in hiding.

I was summoned three times to present myself to the police. The first two times we ignored the summons but the third time my uncle took me, on 15 November 1990 at 9.00 in the morning, to the police station known as "Polwil" or "Kepolisiau Wilayah" in José Maria Marques Street.

There I was interrogated. After the interrogation I was told to think hard to see if I would change my mind and denounce my other companions as I had been called on to do. Fifteen minutes later I was again called to the office, and asked if I had anything more to add. When I remained silent two policeman began punching me on the head, chest and belly. When they tired of this, because their hands were hurting them, they began to beat me on the back with truncheons. This suffering lasted nearly an hour. They then put me in a cell to rest. My face was completely swollen and black and blue. At 3.00 in the afternoon they took me from the cell and again began to punch and beat me. These were not the same men that had beaten me earlier.

On the following day, 16 November, at 3.00 in the morning, they again beat me and then took me to another police prison at Becora, known as "Kepolision Sekor" or "Polsek". Here, two policemen on duty received me with the same treatment until almost the following morning. This time the blows were only on the pit of the stomach and on the chest. One would hit me until he was tired and then the other would take over and so on. As well as this mistreatment they hurled insults at me and at my uncle José Alexandre Gusmão (the resistance leader - ed.).

After a week had passed they stopped these mistreatments but the insults and jeering continued.

I received a note from the court to say that I had to remain in prison until 15 January next. I was also called to the "Korem" and there "the gentlemen" said that I was to go to Comarca and then I would be tried.

I am a little confused because:

1. Without coming to trial I have already received a note from the court stating the days which were determined as my punishment.

2. Along with this note from the court they still tell me that I am going to be tried after I go to Comarca

3. My age was increased from 15 to 23 although I had presented my complete identification papers to the police.

Up to today I remain in the police prison in Becora.

Jorge Gusmão
13 December 1990